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FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 76

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SECTION 1/3 WH30059

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FM: THE SITUATION ROOM

TO: WINSTON LORD FOR HENRY KISSINGER

TOHAK 76

NEWS SUMMARY

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

JANUARY 11, 1973

(WEDNESDAY NETS, WIRES)

THE MAJOR STORIES OF THE DAY:

THE WATERGATE TRIAL GOT UNDERWAY W/A "SURPRISE" AS HUNT PLEADED GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY, BURGLARY AND EAVESDROPPING LED ON ALL NETS. SIRICA WILL GIVE HIS DECISION ON ACCEPTING THE PLEA THURS. ALSO REPORTED BY ALL IN LENGTHY REPORTS WAS PROSECUTION STATED CREP GAVE \$250,000 TO LIDDY THINKING IT WOULD BE USED TO INVESTIGATE EXTREMIST THREATS AGAINST THE GOP CAMPAIGN, WHEN INSTEAD IT WAS USED IN DEVELOPING PLANS TO INFILTRATE MCG AND MUSKIE OFFICES, DNC HQS AND DEM CONV.

THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE HAK-THO TALKS SEEMED "LESS FRIGID" (CBS) OR "SOMEWHAT MORE RELAXED" (NBC) AS THERE WERE WAVES, SMILES AND HANDSHAKES. NBC WAS ONLY NET W/FILM REPORT OF TALKS W/NBC'S DOBYNS NOTING SULLIVAN AND AIDES ARRIVED HALFWAY THRU THE SESSION CARRYING SOME DOCUMENTS WHICH THE US SIDE DISCUSSED IN THE GARDEN... FROM THE WH PIERPOINT REPORTED RN APPARENTLY DIDN'T CONSULT W/HIS TOP MILITARY ADVISERS BEFORE THE BOMBING WAS ORDERED.

ABC/ NBC W/FILM OF RICHARDSON "STRONGLY" DEFENDING RN'S DECISION TO BOMB, SAYING IT MUST HAVE BEEN AN "AGONIZING" DECISION TO MAKE.. AFTER NOTING RULE CRITICIZED ASH'S APPOINTMENT, ALL NETS W/FILM REPORTS AS ADM. KIDD SAID HE FELT HIS ACTIONS AGAINST THE FORMER NAVY PROCUREMENT CHIEF WERE NECESSARY BECAUSE RULE DIDN'T STAY W/IN THE BOUNDS HE HAD SET.

CBS W/2 SPECIAL FILM REPORTS FROM NVN: THE 1ST FROM SWEDISH TV CENTERED ON BOMBING DAMAGE IN HANOI W/REPORTER EMPHASIZING DESTRUCTION TO CIVILIAN AREAS. ON THE 2ND, A JAPANESE FILM, 4 POWS EXPRESSED SURPRISE OR SORROW AT DAMAGE.

ALL NETS AGAIN W/LENGTHY FILM REPORTS ON SNIPER KILLED IN NEW ORLEANS--DESCRIBED AS "SHY," "QUIET" AND "POLITE." IN CBS FILM, YOUTH'S MOTHER SAID SHE FEELS NAVY MADE HER SON CHANGE.

IN COMMENTARY, BRINKLEY DIDN'T THINK CHANGING THE SENIORITY SYSTEM WOULD IMPROVE HILL BECAUSE THE PROBLEM ISN'T HOW COMM. CHRMN. ARE CHOSEN BUT WHAT THEY DO AFTERWARDS....SEVAREID FOCUSED ON POSSIBLE WH-HILL BATTLE W/EACH SIDE USING "MANDATE" AS ITS BATTLE CRY.

TALKS

FRENCH NEWS REPORTS FROM HANOI SAID OFFICIALS THERE WERE "CLEARLY PESSIMISTIC" AND WERE ACCUSING HAK OF THREATENING NEW RAIDS...SOURCES SAID NVN HAS SHOWN NO INCLINATION THUS FAR TO MAKE NEW CONCESSIONS. IT REPORTEDLY IS READY TO SIGN THE OCT. AGREEMENT, BUT REJECTS MAJOR CHANGES WHICH THEY SAY THE US DEMANDS....ABC NOTED UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF NO PROGRESS.

UPI SAYS HAK AND THO SMILED AND LOOKED RELAXED, BUT THERE WAS NO

1ST HANDSHAKE BETWEEN HAK AND AN NVN REP IN THE CURRENT TALKS.

NOTING THE MEETING WAS HELD IN THE HOUSE USED FOR THE 1ST OF NOW
18 MEETINGS ON NOV. 20, NBC'S DOBYNS REPORTED WHEN SULLIVAN AND
2 EXPERTS --ONE IN VIET LANGUAGE, THE OTHER IN INTERNATL. LAW--
ARRIVED, SULLIVAN, HAK AND 4 AIDES TALKED IN THE GARDEN APPARENTLY
ABOUT WHAT WAS IN 2 DOCUMENTS. WHATEVER IT WAS, IT WAS ENOUGH
TO KEEP THEM OUTSIDE FOR 15 MINUTES, DURING WHICH TIME HAK AND SULLIVAN
REFERRED TO THE PAPERS REPEATEDLY. BUT NO ONE OTHER THAN THE NEG-
OTIATORS KNOW WHAT'S IN THE DOCUMENTS, SINCE WHILE HAK AND THO
HAVE THEIR DIFFERENCES, THEY DID AGREE NOT TO DISCUSS THE TALKS
WHILE THEY CONTINUED....NBC NOTED HAK-THO WILL MEET TOGETHER
W/TECHNICIANS WHILE 173RD SESSION OF OFFICIAL TALKS IS HELD.

POMPIDOU SAID "NO ONE AMONG (WORLD) LEADERS WAS MORE SORRY" THAN
HE OVER BOMBINGS. W/OUT GOING INTO DETAILS, POMP ADDED THAT NEGOTIATORS
FACED PROBLEMS WHICH ARE "NOT NONEXISTENT, BUT REAL."

ON CBS AM, MARVIN KALB NOTED DIPLOMATS FEEL "SUDDEN SUCCESS" MAY
BE CLOSE IF US MAKES CONCESSIONS THOUGHT LIKELY BECAUSE OF CLOSE-
NESS OF INAUGURATION. BUT IF NO AGREEMENT BY 20 JAN., MARVIN SAYS
NO AGREEMENT MAY COME FOR MONTHS. BROTHER BERNIE IN SAIGON SAYS
S VIETS HAVE "FATALISTIC FEAR" THAT 20 JAN DATE WILL FORCE US TO
COMPROMISE BUT THEY ARE STILL PREPARING FOR "FOUR MORE YEARS"
OF WAR.

GOV-OWNED SWEDISH BROADCASTING SAID THERE WERE INDICATIONS HANOI
EXPECTS THE TALKS TO BREAK DOWN AND BOMBINGS TO RESUME BEFORE THE
END OF THIS WEEK. IT SAID NVN REQUESTED THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE
ON VN TO SEND AN INTERNAT'L DELEGATION OF OBSERVERS TO HANOI BY SAT
AT THE LATEST, IN CASE THE BOMBINGS WERE RESUMED.

HILL AND OTHER REACTION

CHANCELLOR SAID THE BOMBING WAS BROUGHT UP AGAIN IN RICHARDSON'S CONFIRMATION HEARINGS, AND THIS TIME HE ANSWERED QUESTIONS. HE AGREED W/ RN AND SYMPATHIZED W/ DIFFICULT DECISION... ABC'S CLARK ALSO NOTED RICHARDSON DECLINED TUES. TO GIVE HIS VIEWS ON THE ADMIN'S BOMBING POLICY DUE TO THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT CHANGED HIS MIND "OVERNIGHT"... SPEAKING OF "AGONIZING" DECISION, RICHARDSON ON ABC/NBC FILM SAID NO ONE IN A POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY WOULD WANT TO BE CONFRONTED WITH THAT KIND OF CHOICE, KNOWING IT COULD WELL MEAN NOT ONLY MILITARY TARGETS BEING HIT, BUT CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AS WELL. ASKED IF HE WOULD HAVE ORDERED THE RAIDS, THE SECTY SAID HE COULD CERTAINLY SEE FACTORS THAT MIGHT HAVE CAUSED HIM TO MAKE THE SAME DECISION. STENNIS ASKED IF THIS MEANT HE FAVORED THE RAIDS, TO WHICH RICHARDSON RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD "BE MORE ACCURATE TO SAY I SUPPORT IT." RICHARDSON WARNED AGAINST ANY EFFORT TO CUT-OFF FUNDS, SAYING SUCH ACTION COULD BE INTERPRETED AS "UNDER-CUTTING" THE NEGOTIATIONS AND POSSIBLY "INDUCING THE OTHER SIDE TO HOLD OUT" FOR TERMS THEY MIGHT OTHERWISE NOT SEEK.

RICHARDSON CALLED HARRY BYRD'S QUERY ON RESUMPTION OF BOMBING IF TALKS FAIL "TOO SPECULATIVE FOR COMMENT." WHAT TO DO IN SUCH AN EVENT TRANSCENDS PURELY MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS AND INVOLVES STATE AND OTHERS, HE SAID.... STATE DEFENDED AS SENSIBLE AND DEFENSIBLE THE BLACKOUT ON DISCUSSING TALKS. BRAY SAID THERE'S STANDING INJUNCTION AGAINST SPECULATION.

DECISION, WARREN SAID, "OF COURSE HE DOES." PIERPOINT W/WH REPORT
NOTED MOORER SAID HE WAS NOT ASKED BY RN IF THE BOMBING RAIDS
WERE NECESSARY FROM A MILITARY STANDPOINT AND WAS GIVEN NO JUSTI-
FICATION FOR THEM. BUT WARREN "TRIED TO IMPLY" MOORER WAS CONSULTED,
HE STATED, REPORTING WARREN SAID MOORER MET W/RN AT CD ON DEC.
8. THAT WAS 10 DOWN, PIERPOINT SAID, ADDING MOORER SAYS ONLY CON-
TINGENCY OF SUCH RAIDS WAS DISCUSSED THEN. WARREN SUGGESTED DOD COULD
CLARIFY THE MATTER, BUT WHEN DOD WAS CONTACTED, IT "DUCKED THE ISSUE."
THUS, THERE IS NO AVAILABLE EVIDENCE RN CONSULTED ANYONE EXCEPT HAK
ON THE DECISION TO "BOMB HANOI BACK TO THE PEACE TALKS," CONCLUDED
PIERPOINT.

RICHARDSON CONCEDED VNIZATION "REMAINS UNSATISFACTORY IN THAT
PEACE...IS NOT ACHIEVED." HE SAID PEACE IN ALL INDOCHINA CAN BE
RESTORED ONLY BY SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT LIKE LAIRD HE
BELIEVES VIETNAMIZATION HAS GIVEN ARVN ABILITY TO DEFEND THEMSELVES.

BUT ANY

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SECTION 2 OF 3

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TOHAK 76

FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 76

TO WINSTON LORD FOR HENRY KISSINGER

US W/DRAWAL W/OUT CEASEFIRE WOULDN'T PUT END TO KILLING. HE
FAVORS CONTINUATION OF MINING OF NVN HARBORS TILL PEACE IS SIGNED.

HK SMITH SAID THAT W/"NO SOLID INFORMATION" ON THE PEACE TALKS,
ONE MUST RELY ON SIGNS. THE MOST IMPORTANT SIGNAL TO HIM WAS
LAIRD'S STATEMENTS VNIZATION WAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE, SAIGON
CAN NOW DEFEND ITSELF, AND US INVOLVEMENT CAN NOW END. HOWARD
SAID HE'S BEEN WAITING FOR "SOMEONE TO DENY OR CONDITION" LAIRD'S
STATEMENTS. BUT, W/NONE COMING, IT APPEARS THAT BASIC CONDITIONS
IN VN MEET 1 OF RN'S 2 CRITERIA FOR W/DRAWAL. ONE, WAS SAFE RETURN
OF POW'S AND THE OTHER WAS SAIGON HAVING A GOOD CHANCE OF DEFENDING
ITS FREEDOM. IF LAIRD WAS RIGHT, SAID SMITH, THIEU IS AS ABLE
AS HE EVER WILL BE. IT SEEMS THAT ALL OTHER POINTS IN THE DISPUTE
ARE INSIGNIFICANT. WHAT USE THEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION OF SOVEREIGNTY,
ASKED HOWARD. IF THIEU'S GOT THE POWER, THEN HE'S GOT SOVEREIGNTY,
NO MATTER WHAT THE SIGNED PAPERS SAY.

ABC/CBS NOTED FILIBUSTER THREAT AS SEN. HUGHES INVITED OTHER
SENATORS TO JOIN EFFORTS TO HOLD UP RICHARDSON'S CONFIRMATION TO
BRING PRESSURE ON ADMIN. TO END THE WAR. "THERE IS NO WAY TO STOP
THIS WAR EXCEPT TO INTERRUPT THE MACHINERY OF GOVT.," HE SAID. ...
PELL HAS NOT AGREED TO LEAD A FILIBUSTER "BUT WOULD BE SYMPATHETIC"
TO SUCH AN EFFORT.

MCCLUSKY, STARK, MONTGOMERY AND YOUNG HAVE ASKED NVN TO LET
No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/08/06 : LOC-HAK-248-5-2-9
THEM VISIT HANOI TO CHECK BOMB DAMAGE....IN ITS 1ST ACTION ON WAR,

THE ROCHESTER, NY, CITY COUNCIL -W/A 5-4 GOP MAJORITY -- VOTED
TO URGE HILL TO CUT OFF FUNDS IF PEACE ISN'T REACHED BY JAN. 20.

NEWMAN BYLINE ON TODAY SUGGESTS RN REGARDS SEARCH FOR PEACE AS
"TEST OF PERSONAL WILL, CHALLENGE TO STRENGTH AND STEADFASTNESS"
AND HIS KEEPING TO HIMSELF REFLECTS RN VIEW IN SIX CRISES THAT
CRISES ARE BEST MET ALONE. ED OPINES RN FOLLOWING SAME TACTICS AS
IN ELECTION: IGNORING EXISTENCE OF OPPONENT(S). THEREFORE, BY
NOT EXPLAINING BOMBING DECISIONS, CRITICS HAVE NOTHING TO FASTEN
ON. THE RISK IS THAT PUBLIC WILL ACCEPT CRITICS' COMMENTS W/O
BENEFIT OF HEARING RN'S, HOWEVER, NEWMAN SEES RN AS HOPEFUL NVN
WILL UNDERSTAND PUBLIC DOES SUPPORT POLICY AND IS CONFIDENT HE
CAN GET PEACE OR IF NOT, MAKE A CONVINCING CASE TO US.

NATL. REVIEW'S BURNHAM THINKS THE BELIEF THE BOMBINGS SOUGHT
TO COMPEL NVN TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY DOESN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE,
BECAUSE THEY "HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING SERIOUSLY." MOREOVER, THE
ISSUES PRODUCING THE CONFLICT HAVE NOT BEEN SETTLED, THE FACT OF
WHICH HAK GAVE AWAY WHEN HE SAID AMONG THE REMAINING DIFFICULTIES
WAS THE "QUIBBLE" OVER "SOVEREIGNTY" --THAT, SAYS BURNHAM, IS WHAT
ALL THE SHOOTING HAS BEEN ABOUT. AND BECAUSE A MAJOR INVASION OF NVN
WOULD HAVE BEEN NEEDED FOR ANY US VICTORY, BURNHAM GUESSES THE
BLITZ WAS INITIATED NOT SO MUCH AS A RATIONAL DECISION, BUT OUT OF
FRUSTRATION WITH HANOI. BURNHAM SAYS RN HASN'T BEEN WILLING TO ADMIT
THE TRUTH THAT BECAUSE WE DIDN'T DEFEAT THE ENEMY, THE VN MISSION HAS
FAILED. BURNHAM SEES RN AS DRAWING ON HIS "LAST POLITICAL AND MORAL
RESERVES" AND WILL HAVE TO COME TO TERMS --1ST OF ALL W/HIMSELF --
VERY SOON. IF RN CAN'T HAVE THE AGREEMENT HE WANTS, HE WILL HAVE TO
TAKE WHAT HE GETS OR AS MAX TAYLOR PROPOSED, PROCEED W/ENDING US
INVOLVEMENT W/OUT A FORMAL AGREEMENT.

NOT US, DECISION. THE BOMBERS AND PILOTS WOULD NECESSARILY BE US, BUT THEY SHOULD BE VIEWED AS TECHNICIANS, AND SVN SHOULD HAVE DIRECT CONTROL OVER THEM MUCH AS NVN CONTROLS USSR-MADE EQUIPMENT. THE FACT THAT ISN'T THE CASE IS THE "MISSING DIMENSION IN VNIZATION." WFB ADMITS IT WOULD BE HARD TO, FOR EXAMPLE, LEASE BOMBERS TO SVN AND RECRUIT PILOTS AS MERCENARIES, BUT IT WOULD BE WORTH IT. IT DIDN'T TAKE THEM LONG TO ESTABLISH HE ISN'T A US "LACKEY," HE ADDS, AND IT WOULDN'T TAKE LONG FOR SVN TO ESTABLISH THEY ARE REALLY RUNNING THE MILITARY SHOW. IT'S TOO LATE FOR RN TO TURN TO HIS ADVANTAGE THE APPEAL OF A TRUE VNIZATION, BUT IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR HIM TO SHARE AUTHORITY W/GVN ON THE WAY TO GIVING GVN PRINCIPAL TACTICAL WEAPON AUTHORITY OVER WEAPONS. MEANWHILE, BUCKLEY WANTS TO READJUST THE RHETORIC: SVN IS, IN EFFECT, HITTING NVN MILITARY BASES; THE US IS MERELY A SURROGATE. "THAT IS THE MEANING OF VNIZATION."

PALME IS MORE CONVINCED HE WAS RIGHT IN INDIRECTLY COMPARING THE BOMBINGS TO NAZI MASSACRES. HE SAYS HE'S NEVER RECEIVED AS MUCH MAIL AS ON HIS CRITICISM, AND 95 PER CENT SUPPORTED HIM. PALME FELT RN "OVERACTED GREATLY" WHEN HE RECALLED THE US CHARGE AND TOLD SWEDEN NOT TO SEND A NEW AMB HERE..DESPITE PM WHITLAM'S INSTRUCTIONS, AUSTRALIA'S OVERSEAS TRADE MINISTER CAIRNS SAID HE WON'T BE SILENCED... AUSTRALIAN LABOR MP WHEELDON WILL EXAMINE BOMB DAMAGE IN HANOI AT NVN INVITATION. WHEELDON SAID EVEN IF "ONLY ONE outhouse HAS BEEN BOMBED, I WOULD STILL REGARD IT AS WRONG." HE SAID HE ISN'T GOING "W/AN OPEN MIND," BUT WILL ONLY REPORT THE DAMAGE AND NOT MAKE ANY STATEMENT ON THE MORALS INVOLVED.

OTHER VN

NEARLY 7 WEEKS. 2 PLANES WERE LOST W/8 CREWMEN MIA. THIS BRINGS POW, MIA OR KIA TOTAL IN ONE MONTH TO 107, SAID RATHER, WHO NOTING US SAYS 16 B52S WERE SHOT DOWN, LED INTO SWEDISH TV FILM OF ALLEGED B52 WRECKAGE AND UNEXPLODED BOMB. SWEDISH REPORTER ERIKSSON NARRATED FILM OF HANOI, PARTS OF WHICH "NO LONGER EXIST." HE WAS TOLD 215 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED IN ONE AREA WHERE HE SAW NO MILITARY TARGETS ON PREVIOUS VISITS. ERIKSSON TALKED W/ONE N VIET WOMAN WHO WAS REPORTED AS SAYING 8 IN HER FAMILY WERE KILLED, THE PLANES CAME SUDDENLY AND SHE'S AFRAID THEY WILL RETURN. THE FILM CONTINUED W/SCENES OF BAC MAI HOSPITAL WHERE THE STAFF HAS BEGUN TO "CLEAR OUT THEMSELVES."

ALL NETS NOTED A B52 PILOT FACES POSSIBLE COURT-MARTIAL FOR ALLEGEDLY REFUSING TO FLY A COMBAT MISSION OVER NVN. SAC SAID CAPT. MICHAEL HECK WAS "THE 1ST AND ONLY" B52 CREWMAN TO FACE SUCH A CHARGE SINCE B52S 1ST WENT INTO ACTION OVER INDOCHINA IN JUNE, '65. SAC DENIED THAT OTHER CREW HAD BEEN SENT BACK TO US "QUIETLY" FOR BALKING AT FLYING MISSIONS.

ALL NETS REPORTED MATHIAS RELEASED LETTER FROM ANONYMOUS AF CAPTAIN CHARGING SAC W/"STUPIDITY AND LAXNESS" IN PLANNING RAIDS WHICH RESULTED IN "AIRCRAFT DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF US BEING SHOT DOWN." THE NAVIGATOR SAID HIS PLANE HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO BOMB SAME TARGET TWICE USING SAME ROUTES. HE SAID HE' NEVER AGAIN FLY A HANOI MISSION USING SAME EXIT ROUTE, DECLARING "NOTHING IS WORTH MY LIFE, ESPECIALLY IF IT CONCERNS SOMETHING SO FOOLISH AS A TARGET THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN BOMBED TWICE." MATHIAS CALLED SITUATION "DISTURBING" BECAUSE UNNECESSARY RISKS WERE TAKEN.

ABC'S BELL INTERVIEWED 3 B52 CREWMEN AT A RESORT 20 MILES FROM
U-TAPAO. W/THE BLITZ OFF, SAID BELL, THE CREWS ARE NOW FINDING SOME
TIME FREE. ONE MAN TOLD BELL THAT MOST PEOPLE THINK WE'RE WAR MONGERS,
WHICH ISN'T TRUE. SOMETIMES, HE SAID WE HAVE 2ND THOUGHTS ABOUT
MISSIONS, BUT WE ARE 1ST "AMERICANS," OUR GOV'T HAS PUT US IN A
POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY, AND IT IS NOT MY PLACE TO QUESTION ORDERS.
A NAVIGATOR SAID THERE IS SOME APPREHENSION BEFORE TAKE-OFF ABOUT
FLYING OVER HEAVILY DEFENDED AREAS, BUT IT'S MOSTLY PRE-TAKEOFF,
AFTER THAT, HE SAID, I GET BUSY WITH THE JOB AND DON'T THINK ABOUT
IT. A PILOT SAID ONE DOESN'T THINK ABOUT IT THE 1ST TIME, BUT BY
THE 2ND, 3RD, OR 4TH MISSION ONE REALIZES THE ODDS GET SLIMMER;
HE ADDED, THO, THAT THEY'RE TRAINED TO DO THE JOB AND ITS A MISSION
THAT HAS TO BE DONE. BELL CONCLUDED THIS RESORT SEEMS FAR OFF FROM
THE WAR, "BUT NOT REALLY," WHEN SO MANY MEN HERE KNOW THEY'RE NOT
FAR AWAY FROM THE WAR.

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TOHAK 76

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

TO: WINSTON LORD FOR HENRY KISSINGER

DECLARING THAT "ONE OF THE SADDEST THINGS" IS THAT SOME PILOTS BEING LOST KNOW THE DETAILS OF STRATEGIC PLANS FOR A-WEAPONS, SYMINGTON CONTRADICTED RICHARDSON'S STATEMENT THAT HE WAS "QUITE CERTAIN" THE PILOTS DIDN'T.

ON JAPANESE FILM FROM HANOI, SHOWN ON CBS, ONE POW SAID HE'S RECEIVED VERY HUMANE TREATMENT "CONSIDERING THE SITUATION," WHILE ANOTHER SAID HE WAS SURPRISED WHEN HE SAW AREA HIT BY US BOMBS-- THERE WERE NO MILITARY TARGETS THERE. HE WANTS THE WAR TO END AND ASKED PEOPLE TO URGE LEADERS TO REACH AN AGREEMENT. A 3RD POW TALKED OF CIVILIANS KILLED, ADDING THERE WAS MUCH DAMAGE CLOSE TO POW CAMPS AND BOMBS WERE THREATENING THEM W/DEATH. THE 4TH WAS "HURT" AND EXPRESSED "SORROW" TO THE N. VIETS FOR THE INNOCENT LIVES THAT WERE LOST. HE HOPES THE NEGOTIATIONS SUCCEED.... NBC REPORTED TASS SAYS ROADS AROUND HANOI HAVE BEEN REPAIRED AND SUPPLIES ARE MOVING.

THIEU'S APPOINTMENT OF HIS NEPHEW AND CHIEF SPOKESMAN, HOANG DUC NHA, AS HEAD OF THE INFO MINISTRY IS SEEN AS PART OF HIS CONTINUING EFFORT TO CONSOLIDATE AND CENTRALIZE HIS CONSIDERABLE POWERS BEFORE ANY CEASE-FIRE TAKES PLACE.

THAILAND AGREED TO A US REQUEST TO KEEP US TROOPS AND AIRCRAFT THERE AFTER A VN CEASE-FIRE.

OTHER FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

USSR DELIVERED 18 MIGS TO SYRIA ONLY WEEKS BEFORE THE OUTBREAK OF THE NEW SYRIAN-ISRAELI AIR BATTLES, ACCORDING TO US INTELLIGENCE. HUSSEIN EXPECTED TO VISIT US SHORTLY BEFORE MEIR, "UNDERSCORING," SAYS UPI, "EXPECTATIONS RN WILL TAKE MORE ACTIVE ROLE" IN SEEKING PEACE.

CHANCELLOR REPORTED SYRIA CLAIMS ISRAELI RAIDS KILLED MORE THAN 500 CIVILIANS WHEN THEY PREVIOUSLY STATED ONLY 2 SOLDIERS WERE KILLED. ISRAEL DISMISSED CLAIM AS A LIE. BUT, OVER SYRIAN FILM OF DESTRUCTION, CHANCELLOR SAID THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE RUBBLE AND THAT THERE WERE CASUALTIES.

THERE'S SPECULATION THAT ONE-TIME PLANS FOR POST-INAUGURAL TRIP TO EUROPE BY RN HAVE BEEN POSTPONED PENDING OUTCOME OF VN TALKS.... POMPIDOU IS OFF TO USSR FOR TALKS W/BREZHNEV. CRITICS HAVE CHARGED VISIT IS TACTIC TO WOO LEFT FOR MARCH ELECTIONS. W/US AGREEMENT TO MEET ALREADY ON HAND, BREZHNEV WILL REPORTEDLY BE AT PAINS TO CHANGE POMI'S MIND ON MBFR TALKS.

IN NATIONAL REVIEW COVER STORY, NOTRE DAME PROF NIEMEYER SAYS SOLZHENITSYN SUCCEEDS IN "RESTORING THE CONCEPT OF MAN TO THE FULLNESS OF HUMANITY" AND HE REPRESENTS ALL IN USSR THAT IS "SPIRITUAL, RIGHT-MINDED, COMMON-SENSED, HOME-GROWN." MOREOVER, THE WRITER BELIEVES SOLZHENITSYN HAS AN IMPORTANCE TRANSCENDING USSR, AND HIS APPEARANCE MUST BE CONSIDERED ONE OF THE GREAT EVENTS OF ALL TIME.

US SAYS ANTI-HIJACK TALKS W/CUBA ARE NOT MAKING PROGRESS ORIGINALLY EXPECTED, AS CUBA IS DEMANDING AN UNACCEPTABLE DEFINITION OF HIJACKING AND HIJACKERS. OBJECT OF US POSITION IS TO STOP TERRORISM, NOT NECESSARILY TO PREVENT PERSONS FROM ESCAPING A POLITICAL SITUATION.

STATE OPPOSES CONVENING OF UN IN PANAMA AS IT COULD INTERFERE
W/ EFFORTS TO RENEGOTIATE THE CANAL TREATY... AP LEADS: ER'S
BIG STICK POLICY MAY BE WAITING TO HAUNT SCALI WHEN THE VETERAN
JOURNALIST BECOMES THE CHIEF US DELEGATE TO THE UN." IF PANAMA GETS
ITS WAY, SCALI'S "DIPLOMATIC BAPTISM" WILL BE A WEEK OF SECURITY
COUNCIL MEETINGS IN PANAMA TO "PULL FROM UNDER THE RUG OLD US
IMPERIALIST SINS IN LATIN AMERICA." IT COULD COMPARE TO BUSH'S UN
WELCOME -- TAIWAN'S OUSTER, SAYS AP, THE PROPOSED THEME FOR THE
MEETING IS I
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY IN LATIN AMERICA, BUT
IT'S UNDERSTOOD THAT MEANS THE STALLED NEGOTIATIONS ON CANAL
TREATY. LENGTHY CBS AM REPORT FOCUSED ON THE RENEGOTIATION PARTICULAR
ON CLAUSE "TO CONTROL IN PERPETUITY." REPORTER NATHANSON SPOT-
LIGHTED FREQUENT OUTBREAKS OF TROUBLE AND LBJ-ROBLES AGREEMENT
TO NEGOTIATE PERPETUITY CLAUSE, LESSENING OF 40,000 MAN PRESENCE
AND RENTAL INCREASE TO BENEFIT PANAMA. FILM ILLUSTRATED APPROACHING
OBSOLESCENCE OF CURRENT CANAL WHICH 100 MARITIME VESSELS
ALREADY CAN'T TRANSIT. PANAMA'S UN DELEGATE BOYD SAYS HIS COUNTRY
"MUST EDUCATE US PUBLIC" ON TREATY CITING 9 YEARS OF NEGOTIATING
W/CUT "MEETING OF MINDS" AND NEED FOR "COMPLETE INTEGRATION" OF
CANAL ZONE W/PANAMA BY 1999, WHICH HE DESCRIBES AS "PERFECT
SITUATION" FOR COLONIALISM.

ABC/NBC NOTED BRITAIN'S WHITE COLLAR WORKERS REVOLTED AGAINST
GOV'T PAY FREEZE AND DISRUPTED WORK NATIONWIDE W/LIMITED WALKOUT.

DEFENSE

THE STAR REPORTS RN HAS CHOSEN SELECTIVE SERVICE'S PEPITONE
TO BE DRAFT CHIEF.

ARMY'S JOHNSON SAID IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THE ABM SYSTEM
WOULD EVER BE DEPLOYED AROUND DC, AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED, EVEN
IF HILL APPROVES. BUT, SAID JOHNSON, "WE NEED A DYNAMIC PROGRAM
TO KEEP PACE" W/USSR'S ABM PLANS.

RULE DID IN CRITICIZING ASH'S APPOINTMENT. OVER FILM O. RULE SAYING HE MADE 1ST APPEARANCE AS AN INDIVIDUAL, NOT A NAVY REP, MCLAUGHLIN SAID KIDD REFUSED TO TESTIFY BUT CHANGED HIS MIND. ... NBC'S LEVINE W/FILM REPORT SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE HEARINGS WAS TO EXAMINE IF THE NAVY BROKE THE LAW BY PUNISHING RULE BECAUSE HE CRITICIZED A WH APPOINTMENT WHILE ON THE HILL.

ADM. KIDD SAID RULE HASN'T BEEN DEMOTED, AS HE'S STILL A GS17. HE DENIED RULE WAS TRANSFERRED OR HARASSED EITHER. AND RULE APOLOGIZED FOR HIS REMARKS THAT ASH APPOINTMENT WAS SO BAD "OLD IKE MUST BE TWITCHING IN HIS GRAVE." RULE SAID HE WAS GUILTY OF "VERBAL EXCESS."

HK SMITH NOTED W/IN 24 HOURS OF RULE'S TESTIMONY, KIDD ASKED HIM TO RETIRE. WHEN RULE REFUSED, SAID HOWARD, HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO A LESSER POSITION. ABC'S GEER REPORTED THAT KIDD DIDN'T REALLY DENY PROXMIRE'S CHARGE THAT RULE WAS TRANSFERRED TO A "MINOR TEACHING POST" DUE TO HIS PREVIOUS TESTIMONY.

KIDD ON ALL NETS SAID RULE "APPARENTLY FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO STAY W/IN THE OUTFIELD LIMITS OF THE BALLPARK WHICH I LAID OUT FOR HIM -- THAT WAS THE STRAW THAT BROKE THE CAMEL'S BACK." PROX SAID THAT IN VIEW OF ASH BEING CONSIDERED FOR WHAT MIGHT BE THE 2ND-MOST POWERFUL POST IN GOV'T, COULD KIDD'S ACTION BE INTERPRETED AS AGREEMENT W/RULE'S VIEW. THAT NEVER CROSSED MY MIND, SAID KIDD. PROX INJECTED IT WAS THE 1ST THING THAT CROSSED HIS MIND, TO WHICH THE ADM. RESPONDED THAT APPARENTLY THEY THINK DIFFERENTLY.

ABC'S GEER NOTED KIDD DENIED THE TRANSFER WAS A DEMOTION, THO SAID HE WANTS HIS OLD JOB BACK AND CAN DO THE NEW JOB IN SPARE TIME. GEER NOTED THAT RULE CITED A NAVY AWARD, AND READ THE ACCOMPANYING LETTER FROM NAVY'S WARNER. ON ABC FILM, RULE QUOTED THE LETTER AS SAYING "IT IS HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO CHALLENGE, TO QUESTION AND TO DISAPPROVE WHEN NECESSARY, REGARDLESS OF OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OR CONSEQUENCES." "NOW, THAT'S MY JOB," SAID RULE, AND "BELIEVE ME SENATOR I'VE BEEN DOING IT."

WHILE KIDD CALLED RULE'S REASSIGNMENT A "LATERAL MOVEMENT," RULE TESTIFIED HE WAS DEMOTED BECAUSE THE ADMIRAL "THINKS I'M A BURR UP HIS ASS." RULE SAID NAVY'S EXPLANATION OF HIS ABRUPT TRANSFER WAS HOGWASH AND IT WAS OBVIOUS HE WAS BEING BANISHED TO A KIND OF SIBERIA. "THEY'VE TRIED TO CHANGE MY JOB SHEET AND TAKE MY DUTIES AWAY EVER SINCE I CRITICIZED THE AVONDALE CONTRACT" A YEAR AGO.

ASKED IF RULE COULD KEEP HIS OLD JOB AND CONTINUE W/THE NEW ONE, KIDD ON CBS FILM REPLIED NO, BECAUSE HE DOESN'T THINK RULE CAN DO IT. AS LONG AS HE "CALLS THE SHOTS," KIDD SAID, THAT'S THE WAY IT WILL BE. ...KIDD DESCRIBED RULE AS ONE OF THE NAVY'S FINEST PROCUREMENT EXPERTS AND CALLED HIS RECORD "SUPERB". BUT HE INSISTED RULE FAILED TO OBEY AN ORDER NOT TO COMMENT ON "DELICATE" NAVY-LITTON-GRUMMAN NEGOTIATIONS.

CBS' MCLAUGHLIN REPORTED KIDD SAID HE WAS TOLD WHEN HE TOOK THE JOB HE WOULD HAVE TROUBLE WITH LITTON, GRUMMAN AND RULE, AND THE "SCRAPPY" RULE HAD A REPLY TO THAT. RULE ON CBS/ABC FILM SAID IF KIDD HAS 3 PROBLEMS, HE HOPES KIDD HASN'T SCREWED UP NEGOTIATIONS W/LITTON AND GRUMMAN AS HE HAS W/RULE. ...CBS' MCLAUGHLIN SAID ALTHO RULE IS USING ALL THE POWER HE HAS IN HIS FIGHT, CONSENSUS IS HE CAN'T WIN.

JUSTICE SAID SUPREME COURT LACKED AUTHORITY TO FREE THE 17 KITTY HAWK SAILORS FROM BRIG.

NAVY'S WARNER PRESENTED FLIGHT TRAINING ORDER TO 24-YEAR OLD WOMAN JUDITH NEUFFER MAKING HER THE 1ST MILITARY AVIATRIX IN US HISTORY. AP SAYS IT WAS A "HOLLYWOOD-LIKE CEREMONY ." 8 WOMEN WERE CHOSEN TO BEGIN FLIGHT TRAINING. LT. NEUFFER SAID SHE'D LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ASTRONAUT DUTY IF OPPORTUNITY CAME ALONG AND WARNER SAID HE WOULD SO RECOMMEND.

HARRY BYRD SAID AN ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMM. WILL HOLD A HEARING ON INTO DOD'S \$54 LOAN TO GRUMMAN BECAUSE, "I BELIEVE WE ARE FACED HERE WITH A CLEAR EVASION OF THE LAW.

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